



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 5, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: District Superintendent and MEGS Contact Person

FROM: Michael W. Radke, Ph.D.   
Director, Office of Field Services

SUBJECT: 2015 Title I, Part A Distinguished Schools Program

CONTACT: Fred Williams, Manager, Regional Support Unit  
Mary Stine, Regional Support Unit  
Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Field Services (OFS)  
517-373-4588, [WilliamsF3@michigan.gov](mailto:WilliamsF3@michigan.gov), [StineM@michigan.gov](mailto:StineM@michigan.gov)

DUE DATE: **September 11, 2015**  
Electronic application and documentation

OFS is currently accepting applications for the 2015 Michigan Title I, Part A Distinguished Schools. A project of the National Title I Association, each year the Distinguished Schools Program publicly recognizes qualifying Title I schools from each state for their outstanding achievements in education. Because only two schools per state are selected each year as National Title I Distinguished Schools, this award is an especially significant honor.

**Distinguished Schools Recognition**

Your school is one of only 20 candidate schools eligible for the Title I Distinguished School Recognition. Two schools overall will be selected for national recognition, one school in each of the categories:

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**Category 1 Awardee**

A Title I, Part A school which has shown exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.

**Category 2 Awardee**

A Title I, Part A school which has significantly closed the achievement gap between student groups.

The two schools representing Michigan as the 2015 National Distinguished Schools will receive recognition and be honored at the 2016 National Title I Conference in Houston, Texas, January 28-31, 2016. Each school will send up to four (4) staff to the Conference, with expenses paid by the district and reimbursed by MDE/OFS.

**State Recognition**

All applying schools will be recognized at the School Improvement Conference in Lansing during November 2015.

**Eligibility**

Schools which meet **either** of the following criteria are eligible to apply for this award:

1. Title I, Part A schools which have exceptional student performance and successfully exceeded their targets in reading and mathematics on state and local assessments for the school year ending 2014 and on local assessments for the school year ending 2015.
2. Title I, Part A schools which have significantly closed the achievement gap between student groups in reading and mathematics on state and local assessments for the school year ending 2014 and on local assessments for the school year ending 2015.

Candidate schools must have a poverty rate of at least 35 percent.

**Selection Considerations**

The following criteria will be considered when evaluating applications:

1. Demonstrated student achievement in Reading and Mathematics as measured on state and local standardized assessments.
2. Demonstrated closure of achievement gaps as measured on state and local standardized assessments.
3. Use of research-based instructional strategies.
4. Coordination of Title I, Part A program with other programs.
5. Implementation of sustained research-based professional development.
6. Established partnerships with parents, families, and the community.

Page 3  
August 5, 2015

**Application**

Attachment A to this memorandum contains the 2015 Title I, Part A Distinguished Schools Program Application which must be completed for each school being nominated.

**Award notification will be made after the week of September 28, 2015.**

Please send completed electronic applications by **September 11, 2015** to:

Fred Williams, Manager, Regional Support Unit  
[WilliamsF3@michigan.gov](mailto:WilliamsF3@michigan.gov)

Attachment A: 2015 Title I, Part A Distinguished Schools Program Application